

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Albania

REPORT

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SUBJECT Shipping and Port Activities

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1. Port traffic in Albanian ports registered a new high during the month, with a total of 73 units; this is believed to be the highest reached since World War II. Comparative statistics are as follows:

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	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.
Number of Ships: Durres	71=140,116 tons	+ 23 ships	+ 28 ships
Vlone	2- 12,035 tons	+18,886 tons	+38,039 tons
Cargo unloaded:	35,671 tons	-4,715	+ 13,729
Cargo loaded:	106,535 tons	+21,422	+ 18,524

2. As a result of the heavy traffic, port operations were slowed down. Ships were required to vacate the berths along the quays after unloading and move out into the roads, returning later to take on cargo. Layovers of 38 days, 28 days, and 26 days were reportedly required for several ships. One ship refused to wait and departed empty for Black Sea ports.
3. The VOLTA RIVER arrived at Durres from Ghana, enroute to Trieste. This marked the first such stop at Durres as the intermediate point on the regular run from Duala to Trieste, initiated recently.

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4. Traffic between Albania and Communist China was insignificant during September. Two ships arrived at Durres from China, the BALTO and the LILLEVAN [redacted], with cargoes of merchandise, and one departed Durres for China, the [redacted] CHIP BEE, with 6,000 tons of chrome ore and 67 tons of copper. The DURRESI, one of the ships of the Sino-Albanian Shipping Company, departed during September for a Polish port to undergo repairs at a shipyard there. Another of the Sino-Albanian Shipping Company's vessels, the VLORA, returned to Durres from Trieste after having been laid up there for repairs and began loading for a future trip to China.

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